

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00401 121529Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0401

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT DA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT FORMATION NO 9 ANKER JORGENSEN TO
FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 0386

1. APPOINTED FORMATEUR LATE FEBRUARY 11, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
LEADER ANKER JORGENSEN IS EXPECTED THIS TIME TO SUCCEED
IN FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT. WHILE HE IS CURENTLY
NEGOTIATING WITH BOTH THE RADICALS AND THE LIBERALS THE
MOST PROBABLE OUTCOME IS A PURE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MINORITY
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PAGE 02 COPENH 00401 121529Z

GOVERNMENT. PRESENTATION OF THE NEW CABINET WILL PROBABLY

TAKE PLACE LATE FEBRUARY 13.

2. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS FEBRUARY 11 ACTING PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING ADVISED THE QUEEN TO APPOINT JORGENSEN FORMATEUR ON THE BASIS OF THE SUPPORT OF THE FOUR PARTIES OF THE SOCIALIST BLOC (REPRESENTING 75 SEATS IN PARLIAMENT) ALTHOUGH MOGENS CLISTRUP AGAIN SUPPORTED HARTLING AS FORMATEUR, THE LATTER REFUSED TO ACCEPT THAT BACKING. HARTLING STATED TO THE PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY THAT HE WAS SUPPORTED ONLY BY THE FOUR PARTIES THAT CONSTITUTED HIS ABORTED COALITION (65 SEATS) AND THAT THEREFORE HE HAD RECOMMENDED JORGENSEN'S APPOINTMENT AS FORMATEUR.

3. GLISTRUP'S TACTICAL PLOY TO FORCE HARTLING PUBLICLY TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PROPOSED GOVERNMENT'D DEPENDENTCE UPON PROGRESS PARTY SUPPORT WAS THUS A FATAL OBSTACLE. THAT GLISTRUP WAS WILLING TO PRESS THIS PLOY TO THE BITTER END WAS EXPECTED LEAST OF ALL BY HARTLING. GLISTRUP, HOWEVER APPARENTLY CONSIDERED IT PREFERABLE TO BITE THE BULLET IMMEDIATELY RATHER THAN BEING PLACED IN A POSITION WHERE HARTLING'S LIBERAL CENTER COALITION COULD CONTINUALLY BLACKMAIL HIM FOR SUPPORT WITH THE THREAT THAT HIS REFUSAL WOULD MEAN A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-LED GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE INABILITY OF PARTY LEADERS TO TERMINATE WHAT IS BECOMING TO THE ORDINARY DANE A MORE AND MORE EXASPERATING POLITICAL SPECTACLE IS MERELY ADDING TO GLISTRUP'S POLITICAL STRENGTH. THERE IS, CONSEQUENTLY, STRONG PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE FOR THE LONG DRAWN OUT POLITICAL MANEUVERING THE OVERLY-FINE BALANCE BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND ANTI SOCIALS BLOCS IN THE NEWLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT- WILL INSURE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT BASED ON THAT PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN GOVERNING EFFECTIVELY.
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